

Alliteration

board
works

A number of words in the same phrase which **begin with the same letter**.

This device often serves to make the image more forceful or vivid.

In 'To Autumn' by John Keats: '**fill all fruit**'; '**winnowing wind**'; '**songs of Spring**'.

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Assonance

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A **repeated vowel** sound within the same line which creates an internal rhyme.

In 'The World is Too Much with Us' by William Wordsworth: '**hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn**' Or in 'I wandered lonely as a cloud': '**A host of golden daffodils**'.

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Cliché

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works

A notion or phrase that is **overused** or **hackneyed**.

Christina Rossetti employs clichés of love in 'A Birthday':

'**My heart is like a singing bird.../
... My heart is like a rainbow...**'



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Dialect

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works

A way of speaking which is dependent on **cultural background**.

The poem 'A Red Red Rose' by Robert Burns: '**As fair art thou, my bonnie lass...Till a' the seas gang dry.**'



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Repetition

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A word or phrase which occurs **more than once**, for effect.

In 'The Raven' by Edgar Allan Poe, the line: '**Quoth the raven, "Nevermore"**' is repeated several times for dramatic effect.



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Rhyme Scheme

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The pattern of the **repeated sounds at the end of lines** in a poem.

'On my First Sonne' by Ben Jonson follows the rhyme scheme **A, A, B, B**.

'Farewell, thou child of my right hand, and **joy**; / My sin was too much hope of thee, lov'd **boy**. / Seven years thou wert lent to me, and I thee **pay**, / Exacted by thy fate, on that just **day**.'

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Rhyming Couplet

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works

Two lines of approximately the same length whose final words **rhyme**. The final two lines of a **sonnet** are often rhyming couplets.

Sonnet 18 by Shakespeare:
'So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see, / So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.'



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Simile

board
works

A **comparison** which uses the words '**like**' or '**as**'.

In 'To a Skylark' by Percy Bysshe Shelley, the skylark is said to be: '**Like a high-born maiden...Like a glow-worm golden...Like a rose embowered**'.



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Dramatic monologue

board
works

A poem in which a **character is speaking to a listener who is silent throughout.**



‘My Last Duchess’ by Robert Browning:
‘**That’s my last Duchess painted on the wall, / looking as if she were alive. I call / that piece a wonder, now....**’

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Iambic pentameter

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works

A poetic rhythm which has **ten syllables per line, and five of them are stressed.**

‘How Do I Love Thee?’ by Elizabeth Barrett Browning:

‘**How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...**’

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Imagery

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works

Any use of techniques which create an **image** for the reader.

In the poem ‘Goblin Market’ by Christina Rossetti, striking imagery is created through vivid descriptions:

‘**Plump unpeck’d cherries, / melons and raspberries, / bloom-down-cheek’d peaches.**’

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Irony

board
works

Implying a distinction between what is said and what is meant, or between what is expected and what actually occurs.

In ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’, the sailors are surrounded by water (the sea) but are dying of thirst: ‘**Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink.**’

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Sonnet

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A **14 line poem** with a distinct **rhythm** and **rhyme scheme**, often **iambic pentameter**.

Sonnet 130 by Shakespeare:

'My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun; / Coral is far more red than her lips' red...'



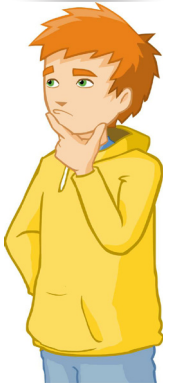
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Tone

board
works

The **feelings and emotions** conveyed in the poem.

In 'Dulce et Decorum Est' by Wilfred Owen the vivid war imagery and bitter recollections create a tone of horror and regret.



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Stanza

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A **verse** or '**paragraph**' in a poem.

The poem 'Kubla Khan' by Samuel Taylor Coleridge has five stanzas of varying length.



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Subject

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What the poem is **about**.

The overriding **subject** of Alfred Tennyson's poem 'In Memoriam' is the death of his beloved friend Arthur Henry Hallam, although it contains many other subjects such as **loss of faith** and **patriotism**.

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Metaphor

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works

A **comparison** of two things which **suggests** they are the same.

In 'The Darkling Thrush' by Thomas Hardy:
'The land's sharp features seemed to be
the Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
the wind his death lament.'



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Narrative

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works

The **storyline** of the poem.

'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes **tells the story** of an unnamed highwayman who is in love with the innkeeper's daughter, and how the characters' love leads to their demise.

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Onomatopoeia

board
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A word which **mimics the sound** it describes.

In 'The Bells' by Edgar Allan Poe:
'How they tinkle, tinkle,
tinkle/ in the icy air of night!'



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Personification

board
works

Attributing **human characteristics** to anything other than a human.

In 'Composed upon Westminster Bridge', Wordsworth uses this device to depict London as a living being:
'Dear God! The very houses seem asleep
and all that mighty heart is lying still!'

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